

12-18-1958

The Amplifier - v. 5, no. 5

Associated Students of the Montana School of Mines

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The Montana School of Mines AMPLIFIER

Vol. 5, No. 5

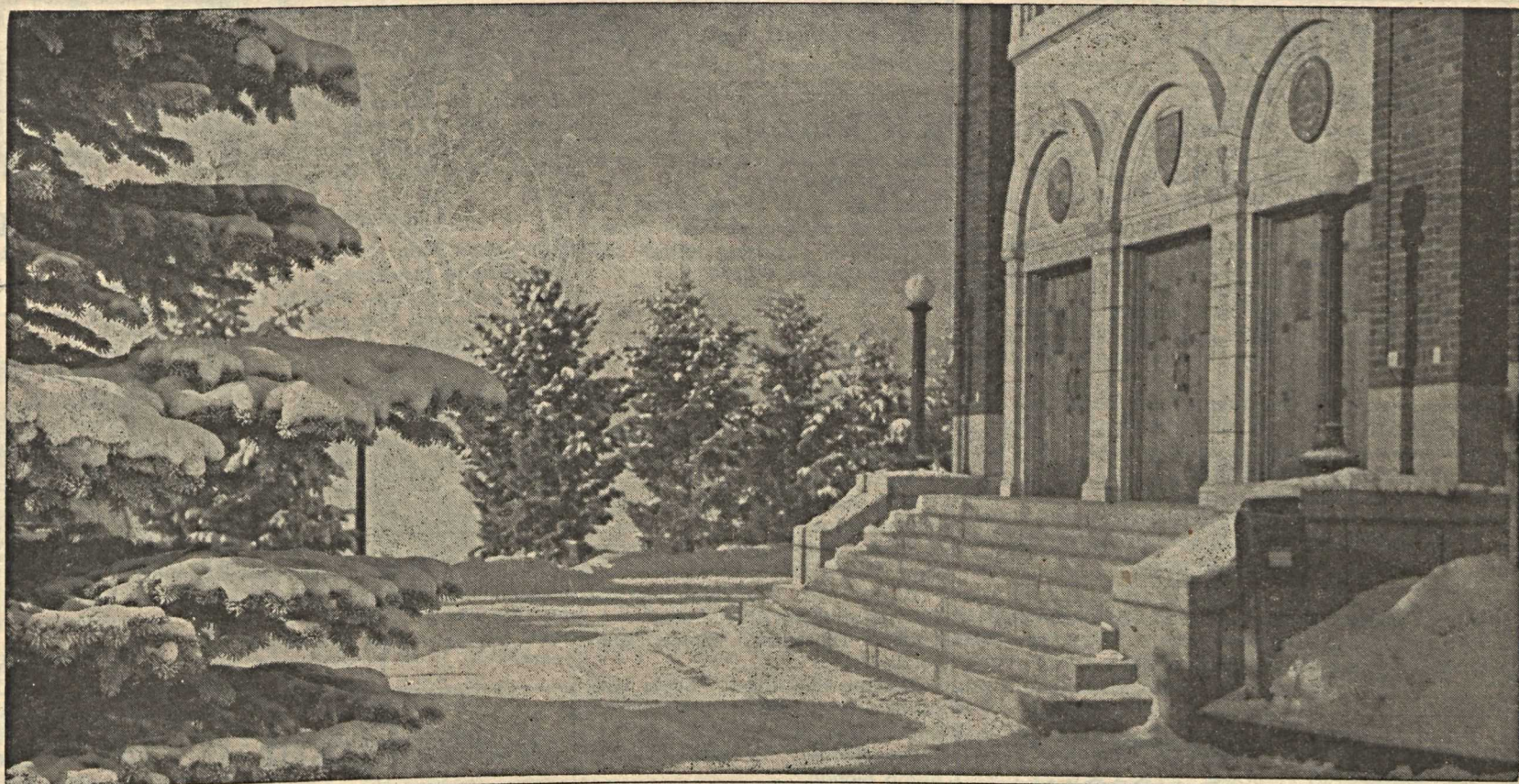
PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE MONTANA SCHOOL OF MINES

December 18, 1958

Merry Christmas  Happy New Year

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SPE To Grant Fellowships

The Billings Petroleum Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers has established a student fellowship at the Montana School of Mines. Fraser M. Burback, Chairman of the local Section, made the announcement on behalf of the members.

The fellowship provides for an annual grant of \$300 to a graduate or senior student in the Department of Petroleum Engineering. The student must be a member or student associate of the SPE who gives promise of reflecting credit upon the profession of engineering. Candidates will be nominated by the Head of the Department, currently Prof. Douglas H. Harnish, Jr.

The local petroleum engineers' group has been studying the problem of aid to education for some time, Mr. Burback stated. It decided that a fellowship offered the best plan for aiding development of professional engineers and recognition of and material help to a worthy student. It also recognizes the quality of instruction now offered by the School.

The Billings Petroleum Section also conducts an annual student prize-paper contest for students in the Department of Petroleum Engineering. Authors of the two best papers are each presented a selected technical reference book and a one-year paid membership in the SPE. The two papers are then entered in a nation-wide con-

test. In 1957, an entry from the Department won first prize in the national judging.

Officers of the local group are Mr. Burback, Mobil Producing Company, Chairman; N. J. Matthews, Shell Oil Company, Vice Chairman; Charles B. Evans, Schlumberger Well Surveying Corp., Vice Chairman; Don M. Madden, Mobil Producing Company, Secretary-Treasurer; and R. L. Dickson, Dowell Inc.; R. L. Brown, Yapuncich Sanderson & Brown Labs; and E. J. Whitaker, Northern Pacific Oil Development, directors. Mr. Whitaker is also Student Counselor. There are at present 82 members in the Section, most of whom reside in Billings.

Sigma Rho Sponsors Program

Last Friday, December 5, the Sigma Rhos sponsored a tape recording from Cornell University on "Brainwashing of Korean War Prisoners." The discussion that followed was moderated by Mr. Dale Pinckney and Mr. Frank Kelly.

The annual Rho Christmas Party was planned for Saturday, December 13. It was held at the Race Track Firehall. Music was provided by Fran Reich's Trio.

Sikkar Speaks to International Club

An address on his homeland was presented to members of the International Club at Montana School of Mines Friday night by John Sikkar of Sweden, a graduate student. The meeting was in the Library-Museum Hall on the Mines campus, with Robert Schnell as master of ceremonies. Esfandiar Saeed is president of the club.

Mr. Sikkar, a native of Estonia who spent 10 years in Sweden, which he calls "home," spoke on the climate, population, government, education, family life, status of women and dating customs in the Scandinavian country. A question and answer period followed.

The meeting ended with the showing of a movie, "Modern Land of the Vikings." The movie showed scenery and the modes of life in Sweden. It described how water is important as a source of income and recreation, depicted ancient Viking culture, and showed the influence of the Vikings on the present culture of Sweden.

Civil Service Seeks Engineers

More than 200 of the most inquisitive-minded college seniors and recent graduates in the country will be sought for Federal scientific research positions through an intensive, nation-wide search, the Civil Service Commission announced today.

In addition to a big bump of curiosity, the persons sought must have imagination, resourcefulness, and a high potential for research work in engineering or the physical sciences. Eleven of the top government research laboratories located in and around Washington, D. C., are among the Federal agencies seeking the inquisitive college seniors and graduates.

Mechanics of the search is a nation-wide, written civil service examination which will be given

(Continued on page 4)

Insurance Plan To Be Proposed To Student Body

by Bob Wylie

For the past two years, a succession of Student Councils has investigated various insurance plans to supplement our present school policy. Of these plans, Blue Shield offers the best over-all coverage with the lowest cost.

Sometime in January, the students will have an opportunity to vote whether or not to adopt the Blue Shield plan. Because of the amount of money involved, it has been decided that a majority vote of seventy-five per cent will be necessary to put this policy into effect. If the plan is approved, it will go into effect the following full semester; dues will be collected by the office at registration.

The cost of the plan will be \$15.75 per year, or approximately \$1.85 per month. The plan will be compulsory for all students, if passed by a seventy-five per cent majority. The present school insurance will continue whether or not the Blue Shield plan is adopted.

Rates for the wives and children of married students are not available at present, but will be presented as soon as possible. If the policy is voted down by the student body, the married students may have an opportunity to form their own group if they so desire.

Students returning to school may continue the insurance through the vacation months for an additional fee of \$5.25.

The coverage of the plan, in general, is better than ordinary Blue Shield policies, and will include participation in all sports, traveling, holiday vacations, and so forth.

Students who are already entitled to Blue Shield benefits under a contract held by their parents or themselves may switch to the school group plan by signing a Change of Status Request card. Any advance dues paid under the former membership will be refunded.

The details of the plan will be available soon, and all students are urged to read them, and decide whether or not such a plan would be desirable and necessary.

January Interviews

The Ingersoll-Rand Company will hold interviews January 6 at 9:00 a.m. in room 208-B of the Engineering Building. Prof. Vine will be in charge of interviews. Concluding at 2:30 p.m., Mr. E. E. Breault will interview senior and graduate metallurgists, petroleum engineers, and mining engineers.

The Allegheny Ludlum Company will hold interviews January 9 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 101 of the Metallurgy Building. Dr. Haynes will be in charge of interviewers. Mr. W. S. Crowell, Jr. will conduct interviews for senior and graduate metallurgists.

Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation will hold interviews January 14, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 101 of the Metallurgy Building. Dr. Haynes will be in charge of interviews. An interviewer (to be announced later) will conduct interviews for senior and graduate metallurgists.

Please sign the schedule sheet before 5:00 p.m. the day preceding the interview and complete the personal data sheets. Any changes of the above interviews will be posted on the bulletin boards. Company literature is available in the placement office.

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 18 Christmas Formal
- 20 Christmas Recess begins

JANUARY

- 5 Christmas Recess ends
- 9 Basketball, Northwest Community College (here)
- 10 Basketball, Northwest Community College (here)
- 13 Basketball, Northern (here)
- 15 Basketball, Western (there)
- 19 Basketball, Northern (there)
- 20 Basketball, Carroll (there)
- 23 Basketball, Northwest Community College (there)
- 24 Basketball, Northwest Community College (there)
- 30 Basketball, Western (here)

The Amplifier

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Subscription Rate \$1.50 per year

Published bi-monthly during the academic year

ARTCRAFT PRINTERS BOZEMAN, MONTANA

EDITORIAL

Christmas 1958

Christmas, like everything else, is constantly changing. You can forget ironing out all those ribbons you saved from last year's gifts. They have gone out of style. This year's gifts will be packaged in a box within a box within a box and tied with striped ribbon. (No, striped toothpaste will not do.)

Uptown you will see the crowd that shops early to avoid the crowd that shops early to avoid the crowd. This Christmas will see many new innovations and clever devices—candles that resemble oranges, pineapples that are really salt and pepper shakers, and clocks that look like a ship's wheel with miniature golf clubs for hands. Here American ingenuity has failed for occasionally the clocks do give the correct time.

You say you have a friend that has everything? Be honest, does he have a set of 14 carat gold tees for his golfing equipment? Chances are he has not. Or how about a jeweled fly swatter? They are excellent for getting rid of those pesky jeweled flies.

But after all is said and done, you can doze off to sleep this Christmas eve feeling secure in the knowledge that America leads the Soviet Union in the production of mink-covered bottle openers. And before I forget, "Yes, Santa, there is a Virginia."

Best way to make a speech: Have a good beginning and a good ending and keep them close together.

Good-by and don't be afraid to use your brain. It's the little things that count.



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LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS

5-37

"HE NOT ONLY GIVES A LOUSY LECTURE — BUT HE EXPECTS YA TO TAKE NOTES ON EVERYTHING HE SAYS!"

Heard In The Halls . . .

That the second basketball game with Ricks College was a close one.

That the coeds have been raiding the garbage cans behind the Mill Building.

That Physics should be a seven hour course taking into account the time spent in lab.

That lit Christmas trees are prowling the dorm.

That the students have school spirit even if they lose. This proven by the high casualty rate of the next day.

That the Quant Lab has new aprons.

Is It True . . .

That Room 103N is paid for but never slept in?

That there is no Santa Claus?

That a sophomore boy from Whitehall receives letters entitled "Sweet Stuff"!

The Inquiring Reporter

Question: What do you want for Christmas?

Answers:

Mrs. Nile: "Anything to do with photography."

Sandy McGonigle: "A Happy New Year's Eve."

Billee Todd: "No one to take the Chris out of my Christmas."

Dan Trbovich: "Some good grades."

Jeannie Sigurdson: "Some batteries for my electric blue socks." and an I.Q., whatever that is!"

Don Rolfe: "A good-looking dumb blonde."

Jack Vaughn: "My bills to be paid."

Mr. Albertson: "A Piper Tri-Pacer."

Miss Satter: "A blue Cadillac with white-walled tires."

John Chellew: "38-24-38."

Dave Malyevac: "A blonde who is about 5' 2", with blue eyes and about 118 lbs."

Mike Hines: "The Co-eds to be friendly to Al Kerr."

Dave Greenberg: "I just want to go home."

Judy Delmoe: "A Tau jacket."

Bill Tiddy: "A tomato from the Pay-'N-Save."

Jerry Blake: "Censored."

Gail Madeen: "Himmmmm."

Linda Lewis: "A Canadian lumberjack."

Al Kerr: "I'll think about it and let you know."

Mrs. McBride: "A tunnel from Main Hall to the Petroleum building."

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Gert's Guidance

Dear Aunt Gertrude,

Vy are all zee upper clazzman talking like thiz?

Puzzled?

Dear Puzzled?

I guezz zey vant to pazz Electricity.

Dear Aunt Gertrude,

The other day one of my friends gave me a ride to the post office. As I was in a big hurry, I rushed in and back outside and jumped in a car, remarking about the inconsideration of some people. "Going somewhere, Son?" a strange kindly voice asked. Then it dawned on me! My friend owns a Chevy and this was a Cadillac. This has happened before and is getting frustrating. What should I do?

Yukon Pete

Dear Yukon Pete,

Looking at this from a psychological point of view, I would first like to know if you had an unhappy childhood.

Dear Aunt Gertrude,

There is no letter in this space due to the fact that students will not write in and tell us their troubles.

Empty

The petroleum industry pays enough taxes each year to run a city the size of Hartford, Connecticut for more than two hundred years.

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Funny Ha! Haws!

A meek little man walked into a barroom and ordered two drinks from the burly bartender. He drank one of the drinks and poured the other into his shirt pocket. After about 10 rounds of this procedure the bartender says, "Pal, who are you pouring the other drink into your pocket for?"

The little man jumped up into the bartender's face and snarled, "Mind your own business, you big bum, or I shall come over the counter and whale the fire out of you." About that time a blurry-eyed mouse stuck his head out of the little man's shirt pocket and said, "That goes for your darned cat, too."

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SPORTS



Pucksters Begin Practice

On December 1 tryouts were held at the Civic Center for the Miners Hockey Team. Coach Jack Leary picked the team and the tentative starting line. Many veterans of former hockey experience are going to play on the team this year. Several of the players have had Canadian hockey experience and two of the players played for the Copperleafs.

Coach Leary figures this year's team will be stronger than the team of last year. The team is further advanced at this stage of the season than at the same date last year. The Miner pucksters defeated the Copperleafs in an exciting contest last year and played several other close games with them. No schedule has been lined up so far but Coach Leary is striving to line up several games for the team. Hockey enjoyed many enthusiastic turnouts by the Mines students last year and it is hoped the same will be true this year.

There are four players returning from last year's team — Hunter, Banghart, Maddocks, and Nordwick.

Other players and their experience are as follows: Atkinson, Canadian; Shulhauser, Canadian; Greenberg, Canadian; Swanson, Canadian; Bronson, Copperleafs; Waters, Canadian; Brown, Canadian; Lindquist, Copperleafs; Keddie; Hutton; Katcher; Boehme and Davis. The tentative starting line is composed of Atkinson, Shulhauser, Hunter, Greenberg, Banghart, and Swanson. The tentative second line is Bronson, Waters, Brown, Maddocks, and Lindquist.

Practice sessions are being held Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday evenings at the Civic Center.

M-Club To Hold Party January 9

The M-Club held their third meeting of the year on Monday, December 8. Dick Banghart, president, presided over the meeting. Several topics were discussed.

A party for the club members was the outstanding issue of the meeting. The party will be held on January 9, right after Christmas vacation. Three committees, one each for entertainment, food, and a hall, were appointed.

Extra letters for lettermen who have earned more than one letter in one sport were also ordered. These will be paid for by the M-Club.

The M-Club requested for and received volunteers to sell pop at the ball games on December 10 and 11.

The M-Club has 38 members this year. This number is expected to increase considerably after the basketball season is over.

The M-Club officers for this year are Dick Banghart, president; Al Walkup, vice-president; and John Straight, secretary-treasurer.

NOT IN ARKANSAS
Filling out an application for dependents aid, an inductee from Arkansas answered "NO" to the question as to whether or not he had any dependents.
"You're married, aren't you?" an officer asked.
"Yes, sir," the soldier replied, "but she ain't dependable."

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BUTTE, MONTANA

Vikings Win Again

The School of Mines Orediggers showed their strength in their second game of the year by pacing the way most of the game against Ricks before losing in the closing minutes by a score of 79-69. The experience of the Vikings showed in the closing minutes when the Orediggers blew their lead. The Vikings have played several games already this season, whereas this was the second game of the year for the Miners.

With only 5½ minutes remaining the Orediggers lead by five points. The Vikings then broke loose with their fast break and pulled away in the closing minutes. The Miners showed improvement over the previous night and handled and moved the ball well. Ricks won the game by their fast break which caused the Miners to lose their lead and the game.

The free throw shooting was very good again with the Mines converting 23 gift tosses and Ricks 19.

Mel Bennett lead the Orediggers with 19 points, Don Mahagin and Jack Weaver each adding 14.

Thompson paced the winners with 21, Merrill adding 17, Church 15, and Daryl Anderson 14.

Mines (69)	G	F	P	T
Bennett	8	3	4	19
Mahagin	5	4	2	14
Weaver	5	4	4	14
Higinbotham	0	3	1	8
Thompson	3	1	2	7
Lane	0	3	0	3
Good	2	0	4	4
Martinich	0	2	2	2
Hines	0	0	0	0
Herring	0	2	0	2
Pavlikowski	0	0	0	0
Boulter	0	1	0	1
Totals	23	23	29	69

Score at half—Mines 32, Ricks 34.

Officials: Jim Wedin and Chuck Hensley.

Bowling Is Well Underway

Bowling competition is well underway at this point of the season. The competition is for both intramural and team sports. The players with the highest averages will represent MSM at the tournament for the schools of the University system at the start of the second semester.

Players must bowl at least four games a month in league competition or nine games in practice bowling. The practice bowling scores must be verified by an individual other than the player himself. In case of ties the league bowler will have preference over the practice bowler.

The leaders so far this season are Bob Laughlin with an average of 182, Dave Malyevac with an average of 169, and Jack Sotich with an average of 165.

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Most MCC Teams Do Well

Six nonconference games are on the agenda for Montana Collegiate Conference basketball teams this week as they ease off before the holidays.

Western Montana of Dillon is the busiest, competing in the Ricks College tournament in Rexburg, Idaho, Friday and Saturday nights after a Monday night game with the Montana State College freshmen.

Eastern of Billings goes to Casper, Wyo., Saturday night for a game with Casper Junior College, while Rocky Mountain of Billings has two games with Northwest Community College of Powell, Wyo., Friday night in Billings and Saturday night in Powell.

Carroll of Helena and Montana Mines of Butte are idle, while Northern of Havre has not made its schedule available.

In games last week, Rocky continued to be the preconference power, racking up two triumphs over the touring Ricks team, 89-63 Friday and 81-72 Saturday.

Western, another favorite, showed power in blasting the highly touted Bobkittens, 83-52, Thursday night.

Eastern opened its season with losses to the Dickinson Teachers from North Dakota, 63-59, in a thriller Friday night and 64-45 Saturday night.

Mines, also out for the first time this season, dropped games to Ricks Wednesday and Thursday, 89-71 and 79-69.

Carroll had a busy week, splitting a pair with Ricks, winning 66-57 Monday and losing 78-77 Tuesday, and then dropping a pair to the Westminster Parsons in Salt Lake City Friday and Saturday, 91-58 and 69-51.

Although the conference action does not open until early January, the Rocky Mountain Bears have tabbed themselves as the team to watch, with five victories and one loss in preconference play.

Northern has a record of three wins and one defeat, Western is four and three in tougher competition, while Carroll has won three and lost five. Both Eastern and Mines have no victories and two losses.

"May I kiss you?" the Ch.E. asked his date.
"Ye gods," answered the sweet young thing, "another amateur!"

Miners Drop Opener, 89-71

The inexperience and first game jitters of the Orediggers enabled Ricks College to defeat the Miners by a score of 89-71. Although the point margin is fairly wide, it does not show a true picture of the game. At one time in the first half the Orediggers led by 32-30.

The fast break and rebounding of the Ricks team was the deciding factor in an otherwise close game. Both teams scored 23 free throws with Ricks only missing two and the Miners three. The game was very clean with only one man fouling out.

This was one of the best opening games the Miners have had in many years. The Orediggers are expected to be a threat for any team in Montana Collegiate Conference. Their first conference game is scheduled for next month.

Dave Shelley was the high scorer for Ricks and also for the game with 19 points. Thompson added 12 and Sessions 11 for the winners. Don Mahagin paced the Orediggers with 17. Bill Thompson added 11 for the losers.

Mines 71	Ricks 89
Bennett	9
Mahagin	17
Weaver	9
Higinbotham	6
Thompson	11
Lane	7
Good	4
Martinich	2
Hines	2
Sessions	11

Score at half: Mines 32, Ricks 42.

Officials: John Dixon and Glen Welch.

Topflights and Tau II Lead

With the intramural basketball season a couple of weeks old, Tau II and the Topflights lead. Two teams have dropped out of the league. They are the Faculty and Tau IV. The games are played in the evening and are referred by members of the varsity basketball team and the student managers.

In games played the last couple of weeks Tau I defeated the Hawks by a score of 35-20, Tau II defeated the Tap-a-Kegs by a score of 36-37, the Goofs defeated Rho I by a score of 41-34, the Tap-a-Kegs defeated Tau III by a score of 43-19, and the Hawks defeated Tau III by a score of 36-19.

Anyone desiring to watch the games can come to the gym in the evenings at 7:30. Some of the games will be played as preliminaries of the varsity games.

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Bah! Humbug!

by Judy Delmoe

Every year about this time a monster rears its ugly head and casts a curse upon the Yuletide Activities. This monster goes by the name of Commercialism. Time was when, at the mention of Christmas, children and adults alike thought immediately of pine trees, homemade cookies, sleigh rides and the always plentiful Christmas dinner. They thought also of the true meaning of this famous holiday, the birth of the Christ Child. People of today do not think of these things when they hear the word Christmas. To them this most holy word means just one thing—money. Not just money out laid but money “in laid.” Christmas thoughts go somewhat like this: “Let’s get the Johnsons the \$10.00 crystal ash-tray instead of the \$12.00 one. They sent us that awful vase last year.” “Dear Santa: this year I want an electric train, a diesel engine, 4 trucks, a teddy bear, a cowboy set, a space outfit . . .” “But Mom, I just have to get Alfred the

Theta Tau Holds Meeting Dec. 4

A pledge meeting was held Thursday, December 4, for the purpose of organizing the pledge class. Twenty new pledges attended the meeting. John Straight was elected president of the new pledge class.

Regent Gus Coolidge explained various aspects of Theta Tau and outlined some of the pledge activities.

The pledges are planning a party for the older members to be held on December 12 at the Rose Garden. The meeting of the pledges was closed by president John Straight.

The active members met on the same night. The purpose of the meeting was to elect a delegate to the National Convention of Theta Tau at the University of Wisconsin on December 27, 28, 29. Kenneth Erickson was chosen to represent Psi chapter.

\$14.98 shirt. We’ve been going steady for two weeks now.”

And then along comes some weak-minded Milquetoast who poses the simple question, “Isn’t Christmas celebrated to commemorate the birth of the Christ Child and not the birth of installment buying, credit plans, or sales?”

Oh my, it gives one faith in human nature to hear the mumblings of the masses!

“Spoilsport!” “He’s just trying to spoil Christmas for the children.” “We haven’t lost the meaning of Christmas, we’re going to Church that day.” “He’s just bitter.”

Is he? You answer that.

CIVIL SERVICE

(Continued from page 1)

In February at more than 1,000 examination points across the nation. To help push the search, deans of college departments and college placement officers throughout the country have been supplied with detailed information about the examination. In addition, most post offices in the country have been given similar information. Qualified applicants may file for the examination from December 1 through March 3.

“The college seniors or graduates who make the grade will be paid a starting salary of \$5,430 a year and can set their career sights on the highest-level research positions in the Federal Government, if they can measure up to the challenges of the research work and grow professionally in their positions,” the Commission said.

The persons selected will be working with some of the nation’s outstanding scientists and will be given opportunity for further training to help them along the career ladder. Only research positions will be filled through this examination.

The Laboratories are offering career research positions in the fields of engineering, chemistry, electronics, mathematics, metallurgy, and physics. They are engaged in a variety of research programs ranging from the attainment of ever-increasing supersonic speeds to the use of nuclear power. The laboratories are all modern with some of them possessing the best research instrumentation in the world.

To measure the research potential of the people being sought, a tough written test will make up the major part of the examination. The test has been prepared by Civil Service Commission experts in cooperation with scientists of the 11 Federal laboratories. In effect it is a scientists’ test to measure scientists.

Government laboratories which will employ the successful applicants are David Taylor Model Basin, in Maryland, six miles northwest of Washington, D. C.; Diamond Ordnance Fuze Laboratories in Washington, D. C.; Fort Belvoir Engineer Research and Development Laboratories, 20 miles south of Washington; National Bureau of Standards, in Washington; National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, a few miles north of Washington; Naval Air Test Center, at the mouth of the Patuxent River on the Chesapeake Bay, near Washington; Naval Gun Factory, on the Anacostia River in Washington; Naval Ordnance Laboratory, in Silver Spring, Maryland, 11 miles north of Washington; Naval Propellant Plant, 20 miles south of Washington; Naval Research Laboratory, on the Potomac River in Washington; and the Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Virginia, south of Washington on the Potomac River.

Complete information and application forms are available in the office of the college placement officer.

The battleship was in port and visitors were being shown around. The guide was explaining a bronze table on the deck.

Guide: “This is where our gallant captain fell.”

Visitor: “Well, no wonder, I nearly tripped over it myself.”

O Come All Ye Faithful

by Judy Delmoe

’Twas the 18th of December
And all through the school,
The Co-eds were scurrying
Without rhyme or rule.

With hammer and saw
And needle and tack
They beat and they cut
They sew and they hack.

What is this fury?
What is this noise?
The Co-eds are trying
To impress the boys.

By giving a dance
Christmas Formal by name
In the Museum Hall
Come if you’re game.

For there is dancing and food
From 9 until dawn
And the fun won’t end
’Til everyone’s gone.

So boys get your dates
Boys, don’t delay
And come to the dance
The night of today.

Society

A wedding of interest took place on Friday, December 5, at the Pard Bar, 37 Main, Meaderville, when Mr. Richard _____ became the husband of the former Miss Sally _____ Mr. Herman _____ officiated. Mr. Gus _____ was the best man and Mr. Alan _____ served as flower girl. The couple is now at home in the Residence Hall.
(Names have been omitted to protect the innocent.)

Student Wives Active

On Saturday, December 6, the Student Wives Club of M. S. M. held a bake sale at Burr’s Department Store. Each member contributed either pastry or candy. Many of the members contributed their time to the sale.

The bake sale was such a big success that another one is planned for the future.

On the first and third Tuesdays of each month, at 7:30 in the evening, swimming sessions are held for the wives and their husbands. Several sessions have been held and those present had a good time. It is hoped that more will attend in the future.

BRIGHTEN THE CORNER

An Englishman was touring the state of Texas and one of the native sons met him and immediately embarked on a long and boring recitation of the wonders of the Lone Star State.

“Maybe you don’t realize it as you are going through my state, but all of Great Britain could fit into one corner of it.”

“I dare say it could,” replied the Englishman dryly, “and wouldn’t it do wonders for the place?”

A man is sometimes known by the company he thinks nobody knows he is keeping.

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Know Butte . . .

SANTA WORE BUFFALO SUIT

When William Porter, Montana pioneer, appeared as Santa Claus at the Community Christmas party in Butte in 1876, the first of its kind held in the mining camp, he wore unusual dress for such a role. Santa, the children were surprised to see, was clad in buffalo overcoat, buffalo shoes and buffalo cap.

However, he wore long white whiskers and carried jingle bells, part of the traditional role.

At this community festival families brought their Christmas presents and placed them upon or under the tree to be distributed by Santa. Apples, then a luxury, popcorn, candies and nuts were placed in stockings made out of mosquito nets.

Strangely, Butte followed the custom of saluting the dawn of Christmas with the popping of firearms, much after the practice of saluting New Year's Day. Firecrackers were used, and Christmas morning, both on Park and Broadway, suggested a Chinese New Year celebration. The ground was littered

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